

There are reports that the information used by the FCC for decisions on media ownership was not even gathered independently by the FCC, but came from industry sources. There are further comments that this information is not adequate. If the FCC is operating as an independent agency of government in the interests of the American people, then it seems to me that it should independently gather information so that we can be sure that the information is accurate and complete. If the American people are to have faith that the FCC is performing its tasks in the public interest then they must have reason to believe that information gathering is done properly. Good rules cannot be made based on incomplete, inaccurate, or biased information. Industry money should not fund any part of this process.

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.